



State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee,

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed S.B. No. 834 AN ACT CONCERNING THE 9-TOWN TRANSIT SYSTEM.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to work with the 9-Town Transit system to resolve scheduling and overcapacity issues.

The transit district, which is based in Centerbrook, does an excellent job providing services – such as the Dial a Ride service - for low-income families, the elderly and the disabled.

The transit district is also a fantastic community partner, holding events like Stuff a Bus and Trunk or Treat to benefit area residents.

9-Town Transit buses serve Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East Haddam, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

9-Town Transit not only provides service to multiple towns in my district, but it also provides connections to New Haven, New London and Middletown.

I have had the opportunity to tour the new transit buses.

I got a first-hand look at the technology on these buses, and I saw how they are helping to remove barriers and foster independence for our most vulnerable residents.

Each bus offers a ramp for people using wheelchairs or walkers instead of the traditional wheelchair lifts.

And because the 9-Town Transit system has such wonderful service, more and more area residents are opting to ride in order to get to medical appointments, run errands or go to work.

For example, Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center and 9-Town Transit have long partnered to provide transportation to Vista members. Vista helps foster independence in their members by training them to use public transportation.

With more riders, more long-term planning is required. This bill would require that planning to begin in order to avoid potential future snags such as a lack of capacity. 9-Town Transit is a tremendous regional resource.

We don't want this resource to become a victim of its own success.

We want to see this resource continue to thrive and continue to help people in my district.

Thank you for your consideration of S.B. No. 834.